IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of

Applicant	:	M. W. Beach, et al.

Serial No.	:	09/244,304
Filed	:	3 Feb 1999
Examiner	:	G. Akers
Group	:	2164

Entitled	:	Preprocessor System and Method for Rejection of Duplicate Invoices

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

I, James W. Nugent, declare that the following statements made of my knowledge are true and those made on information and belief are believed to be true, with the knowledge that willful false statements are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and may jeopardize the validity of the above identified Application or any Patent issuing therefrom:

1. That I am not one of the Applicants in the above-identified Application.

2. That I have a B.S. Degree in Management Sciences from State University of New York at Binghamton.

3. That I have had experience as a developer of procurement services applications and databases, including the Global Procurement -- Procurement Solutions Information Warehouse (GP-PSIW), a summary level procurement information database that provides procurement information at the commodity, country, and supplier level.

4. That I have managed procurement re-engineering efforts and am familiar with procurement and invoicing business processes.

5. That I am presently employed by the IBM Global Systems group of International Business Machines Corporation, the assignee of the invention defined in the above-identified Application, and presently am the manager of Global Systems and Data Management Applications for Global Procurement.

6. That I have reviewed claims 1-11 of the above-identified Application, the Klein (U. S. Patent 5,845,285), Geer (U. S. Patent 5,930,778), and Rail (U.S. Patent 5,680,611) patents cited by the Examiner, and the arguments and assertions of obviousness made by the Examiner in the Office communication mailed 30 Aug

2001 in the above-identified Application.
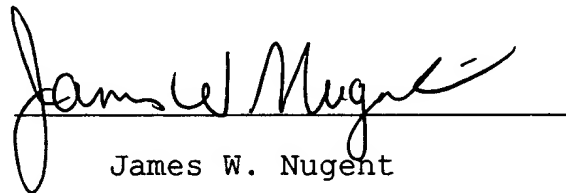
7.   That, on information and belief, neither Klein, Rail or
     Geer, taken singularly or in the combinations proposed
     by the Examiner teach or suggest the invention as
     claimed in claims 1-11 in the above-identified
     Application for, among others, the following reasons:

     a.   Geer does not teach to one of skill in the art the
          preprocessing of invoices. Rather, Geer teaches
          how to expedite the processing of checks received
          by a business with an accompanying payment form,
          to reduce the time from receipt of the check to
          the time the funds are available to the business
          to use (Col. 1, lines 18-24).

     b.   Klein does not teach to one of ordinary skill in
          the art the finding of duplicate invoices, nor its
          interpretation in light of Geer as teaching
          preprocessing. Klein clearly teaches a method of
          finding duplicates after data is entered into a
          database, and thus teaches away from applicants
          solution to the problem of duplicate invoice
          processing.

c.   Rail does not teach to one of ordinary skill in the art the rejection of invoices to vendors. Rail clearly teaches a method to review call records to prevent a record from appearing twice on a bill being sent to a customer. Its teachings clearly indicate that after matching the call records, if a duplicate is found, that the duplicate goes to an audit file, and is not rejected back to a vendor.

d.   Rail does not teach to one of ordinary skill in the art the use of net sum logic for evaluating invoices. Rail deals with the creation of bills to be sent for payment, not for invoices received for payment. Rail teaches a method that creates a "checksum" (specific characteristics of an invoice to be sent) and compares the checksum to checksum of previously created invoices to ensure a duplicate bill is not mailed. There is no teaching of how to prevent invoices to be paid from entering the database using a net zero logic.

Date: _10/29/01_   _James W. Nugent_
                                         James W. Nugent

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